

PSYCHIATRIC NURSING. By David Maddison, Patricia Day, Bruce Leabeater. (Pp. xi+511; figs. 38. 40s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

THE authors have enlisted the help of a child psychiatrist and a psychiatric social worker to provide additional chapters in a textbook of psychiatry and psychiatric nursing. Much space is devoted to the former, but Kraepelin has been largely superseded by Freud in an attempt to provide a more dynamic background to psychiatric nursing. Whilst descriptions of the various psychiatric disorders are clear, the emphasis is on the importance of psychological factors in aetiology and nursing care. Physical methods of treatment do not always receive the same attention to detail as do methods of management based largely on an understanding of psychopathology.

The historical introduction is useful. In discussing the use of recently introduced drugs in psychiatry the authors point out that these have not reduced the need for skilled psychiatric nursing. "The easy availability of these . . . does not permit the nurse to see herself merely as a technical assistant to the psychiatrist. Nor should she even look on them unwittingly as yet another form of 'restraint.' " This important precept is kept constantly to the fore throughout the text. The value of nurses' observations is stressed and there is an excellent chapter on how such observations should be made and recorded.

This book, which is well produced, will be of value to all nurses who work with patients in a dynamic atmosphere. Whether the psychological concepts upon which much of the text is based are acceptable or not, the approach to patients advocated is fully in accord with modern psychiatric practice. This book is one that could be read with profit also by nurses in general training. The line drawing illustrations are both amusing and informative. J. G. G.

PSYCHOLOGY IN RELATION TO MEDICINE. By R. M. Mowbray and T. Ferguson Rodger. (Pp. vii + 399; figs. 29. 36s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

It has been difficult to find a suitable British textbook of psychology for medical students to read in conjunction with their lectures. Therefore Mowbray and Rodger's book deserves careful consideration. To be acceptable, such a textbook has to present the subject in a way which is attractive, relevant to medicine, and in a no less sophisticated style than the student has learned to expect in other professional subjects. This is a difficult task, for at present not sufficient time is available for the student to proceed from first principles in psychology as he would in other subjects. Thus considerable ingenuity must be exercised on the part of the authors if the subject is to be accepted by the student as an integral part of his conceptual model of medicine. The authors have clearly tried hard to satisfy these criteria, but the fact that they aimed at a wider audience made their task all the more difficult.

The way in which the subject is treated follows the classical style. However, this does not mean that the material is not up to date—on the contrary the authors have surveyed very recent developments in every field they describe. Whilst emphasising a scientific approach to the study of psychology, they have not forgotten the contributions of psychoanalysis and allied schools. What has not been emphasised sufficiently, in the reviewer's opinion, is the psychophysiology of the emotions. It is in this field that students look for a bridge that will link their somatic studies with what is for them the new dimensions of psychology.

This book will provide students with much useful information concerning the fruits of modern psychology. Theoretical considerations are wisely kept at a minimum in a text of this size. The material is arranged in a hierarchical fashion, leading the reader on to the less "scientific" aspects of psychology, for instance, personality development, personality and culture. There is no doubt but that this book will be read by medical students with profit, but had the authors ignored possible lay readers, its impact would probably have been greater on the audience for which it is primarily intended. J. G. G.